

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 AGR-05 AID-05 COME-00 EB-07

IO-13 LAB-04 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00 CIEP-01

CEA-01 FEA-01 OES-06 EUR-12 /122 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:DVKILLION:BA

APPROVED BY AF-TWSEELYE

AF/W:TWMSMITH

AF/EPS:ESEGALL (DRAFT)

EB/OFD/FFD:BMCMULLEN (INFO)

USDA/OGSM:JKEELER (INFO)

----- 077842

P 291424Z APR 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 103437

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, PFOR, GV

SUBJECT: PL-480 TITLE I FOR GUINEA--GUINEAN DELEGATION
CALL ON AF ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE

SUMMARY: GOG MINISTER OF PLANS Drame AND DELEGATION MET
WITH AF ACTING ASST. SECY. APRIL 27 TO REQUEST INCREASED
PL 480 TITLE I ALLOCATION AND DELIVER MESSAGE FROM
PRESIDENT TOURE TO PRESIDENT FORD. GOG THANKFUL FOR USG
FOOD ASSISTANCE, BUT LEVEL OF FY 76 PROGRAM JUST SIGNED
IS LOWER THAN ORIGINALLY REQUESTED AND DOES NOT MEET
GUINEAN FOOD NEEDS. Drame AWARE OF US CONCERNS OVER ANGOLA
AND SOVIET FLIGHTS THROUGH CONAKRY, BUT AS TOURE AND
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SENIOR GOG OFFICIALS HAD INFORMED AMBASSADOR HARROP, THIS
SIMPLY REFLECTION OF LONGSTANDING GOG POLICIES, AND TOURE
WELCOME OF US BICENTENNIAL NAVAL VISIT IS EXAMPLE OF
GUINEA'S NON-ALIGNMENT. ACTING ASST. SECY. RESPONDED THERE

NO RPT NO POSSIBILITY OF INCREASED ALLOCATION THIS YEAR, BUT UNDERTOOK OBTAIN ECONOMIC AND STATISTICAL DETAILS FROM DELEGATION RE GUINEA ECONOMIC SITUATION AND FOOD REQUIREMENTS. USG WOULD CAREFULLY EXAMINE AND TRANSMIT FORMAL RESPONSE TO GOG THROUGH EMBASSY CONAKRY. END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER OF PLANS ALIOUNE Drame, LED GOG DELEGATION

TO DISCUSS PL-480 TITLE I FOOD ASSISTANCE WITH AF ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE ON APRIL 27. GUINEAN AMBASSADOR BAH, ALIMAG DIRECTOR GENERAL KOUROUMA, AND DIRECTOR OF AID DIVISION OF STATE COMMITTEE KEITA ACCOMPANIED. AF/W DIRECTOR, GUINEA DESK OFFICER, AND AF/EPS PL-480 OFFICER ATTENDED, AS DID AFR/CWR DIRECTOR, (SHEAR).

2. AFTER WELCOMING DELEGATION, ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY PROVIDED FRENCH TEXT OF SECRETARY'S LUSAKA SPEECH AND BRIEFLY SUMMARIZED MAJOR POINTS. HE NOTED THIS NEW DEPARTURE IN US AFRICAN POLICY CONTAINED PRACTICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE PROPOSALS WHICH WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO DISCUSS WITH DELEGATION AFTER THEY HAD HAD CHANCE TO STUDY SPEECH.

3. MINISTER Drame THANKED ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY, REFERRED TO WARM WELCOME RECEIVED DURING PREVIOUS VISITS TO US, AND NOTED THAT US/GOG COOPERATION CONTINUES TO DEVELOP FOR OUR MUTUAL BENEFIT IN SPITE OF SOME "SMALL CLOUDS."

4. Drame SAID PRESIDENT TOURE HAD INSTRUCTED HIM TO THANK THE US FOR ITS FOOD ASSISTANCE. HE REFERRED TO GUINEAN DELEGATION VISIT TO THE US LAST YEAR TO DISCUSS PL-480 AND NOTED THAT DURING THAT VISIT DELEGATION HAD OUTLINED PROBABLE REQUIREMENTS FOR FY 1976. GOG SIGNED FY-76 PL-480 TITLE I AGREEMENT ON APRIL 21, AND WAS GRATEFUL TO US FOR ITS ASSISTANCE. HOWEVER, THE AMOUNTS ALLOCATED FOR FY 1976 WERE LOWER THAN THOSE ORIGINALLY REQUESTED, CONFIDENTIAL

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AND THE PURPOSE OF THIS MISSION WAS TO INFORM US AUTHORITIES OF GUINEA'S PRESENT FOOD SITUATION AND TO REQUEST ADDITIONAL HELP.

5. Drame EMPHASIZED HELPFULNESS OF PAST US PL-480 PROGRAMS. HE ADDED GOG HAD MADE GOOD ON ITS PAYMENT SCHEDULES AND CERTAINLY WANTED CONTINUATION OF PL-480, BUT NOW FACES "VITAL PROBLEM." GUINEA HAS MADE GOOD OVERALL ECONOMIC PROGRESS DURING THE PAST YEAR AND HAS MADE SPECIAL EFFORT TO CONCENTRATE ON AGRICULTURE, ESPECIALLY FOOD PRODUCTION. GOG HAS UNDERTAKEN A LARGE-SCALE AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT IMPORT PROGRAM FOR DOMESTIC FOOD PRODUCTION MADE POSSIBLE BY FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNINGS FROM BAUXITE EXPORT TAX.

OUTLOOK IS PROMISING FOR FUTURE COOPERATION WITH FOREIGN FIRMS. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FROM ARAB OIL EXPORTERS ANOTHER PLUS. GUINEA THUS ABLE TO FOCUS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ON COMBINATION OF OWN MINERAL RESOURCES WITH WESTERN TECHNOLOGY AND WESTERN AND ARAB MONEY. BUT IN SPITE OF PROGRESS, EFFORTS, AND FAVORABLE ECONOMIC OUT-

LOOK, GUINEA IS NOT YET ABLE TO PROVIDE ENOUGH FOOD FOR ITS PEOPLE. THIS IS PRINCIPALLY CAUSED BY A) CONTINUED RAPID GROWTH OF URBAN POPULATION (RURAL AGRICULTURAL SECTOR FEEDS ITSELF), B) FLOODS WHICH DAMAGED THIS YEAR'S CROPS, C) DROUGHT IN SOME INLAND AREAS, AND D) GUINEA'S OWN INEXPERIENCE IN MOBILIZING AGRICULTURAL RESOURCES.

6. GUINEA'S SEMI-ANNUAL NATIONAL PARTY CONGRESS MEETS IN MAY, GOG DECLINED TO ISSUE A FORMAL COMMUNIQUE LISTING AMOUNTS ALLOCATED IN THE APRIL 21 PL-480 AGREEMENT BECAUSE IT EXPECTS POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS WHEN REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PEOPLE ARE TOLD THAT THE FY-76 PROGRAM IS LOWER THAN LAST YEAR'S. GUINEA'S INCREASED EARNINGS OF FOREIGN EXCHANGE FROM BAUXITE GO FOR AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT, AND FOR COMMODITIES TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF LIVING OF THE PEOPLE--THEREFORE THE COUNTRY RELIES ON THE US FOR FOOD AID, ESPECIALLY RICE. US COMMODITIES ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED IN GUINEA. THE QUALITY OF US RICE IS EXCELLENT AND GUINEANS HAVE LEARNED TO LIKE US FLOUR.

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7. Drame THANKED ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR LISTENING TO EXPLANATION OF NEED FOR HIGHER PL-480 ALLOCATION, AND FOR COPY OF SECRETARY'S LUSAKA SPEECH, WHICH HE FELT WOULD BE GIVEN GREAT ATTENTION BY AFRICAN LEADERS. Drame COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT TOURE IS VERY FAMILIAR WITH US POLICIES AND WHEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES DISAGREE, TOURE DOES NOT OVERLOOK FACT THAT THE US HAS ITS OWN PROBLEMS. TOURE ALSO TRUSTS THAT THE US IS AWARE THAT GUINEA'S OWN INTERNATIONAL POLICY IS A CONSISTENT ONE.

8. Drame SAID AMBASSADOR HARROP HAD INDICATED THAT THERE WAS SOME CONCERN IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE OVER ANGOLA AND SOVIET FLIGHTS THROUGH CONAKRY, BUT THAT PRESIDENT TOURE AND OTHERS HAD ASSURED AMBASSADOR HARROP GUINEA'S POSITION SIMPLY REFLECTED CONTINUATION OF LONGSTANDING POLICIES. SCOFFING AT IDEA OF "SOVIET BASE" IN GUINEA, Drame SAID THIS INCONCEIVABLE IN VIEW OF GUINEA'S ROLE AS THE "FIRST TRULY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN COUNTRY." Drame COMMENTED THAT AS AN INDICATION OF THIS, PRESIDENT TOURE HAD INFORMED AMBASSADOR HARROP THAT A BICENTENNIAL NAVAL VISIT WOULD BE WELCOMED. FURTHERMORE, ON THE ENTIRE QUESTION OF AFRICAN LIBERATION GUINEA WOULD PAY VERY CLOSE

ATTENTION TO ANY SOLUTIONS PROPOSED BY SECRETARY KISSINGER DURING HIS AFRICAN TRIP.

9. Drame closed presentation by delivering letter from President Toure to President Ford, and expressed hope

that it would be possible to have appointment to hand this over personally. (FYI: Toure's letter noted friendly US-GOG relations, thanked US for assistance, and extended best wishes on Bicentennial. Hoped that Drame could meet President to deliver message. End FYI.)

10. Acting Assistant Secretary expressed appreciation for Drame's explanation, and undertook to transmit Toure message to President Ford. He emphasized US wishes to assist Guinean economic development and sincerely desires assist Guinean people. Acting Assistant Secretary noted that in formulating PL-480 Title I programs USG takes several factors into account: A) needs, B) domestic confidential

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resources of recipient country, C) availability of commodities for Title I sale, and D) totality of bilateral relationship. The FY 1976 program for Guinea was determined on basis of these factors. A review of our past PL-480 Title I programs for Guinea revealed that the average was DOLS. 4-5 million (with the sole exception of last year's approximately DOLS. 9 million) which is comparable to the FY 1976 program amount just signed.

11. Acting Assistant Secretary told Drame that in all frankness there is no RPT no possibility this year of increasing the allocation. He noted that the agricultural development and training project which we hope to sign in the very near future will be a significant factor in assisting Guinea to increase its own agricultural production. Acting Assistant Secretary regretted USG unable accede to Guinean request, but pointed out that next year we would again carefully examine needs at that time as we had done for the FY 1976 program.

12. Morning session was followed by lunch hosted by Acting Assistant Secretary. During lunch Guineans returned several times to their hopes for additional PL-480 commodities. US Del replied in each case along lines para 11 above.

13. In brief afternoon closing session following luncheon Acting Assistant Secretary proposed following: A) delegation to meet with AF/W Director, Guinea country officer, and aid rep to hear details of economic factors in Guinea upon which GOG request for supplemental food

ASSISTANCE WAS BASED; B) DEPARTMENT WOULD DISCUSS MATERIAL THUS DEVELOPED WITH OTHER COLLEAGUES AS APPROPRIATE; C) MINISTER DRAKE TO RETURN TO CONAKRY WHERE DECISION WOULD BE DELIVERED THROUGH AMBASSADOR HARROP.

14. DRAKE AGREED TO PROPOSAL TO PROVIDE AF/W AND AID REPRESENTATIVES WITH DETAILS ON GUINEA'S PRESENT ECONOMIC POSITION BUT EMPHASIZED HE PERSONALLY IN NO RPT NO HURRY TO RETURN TO CONAKRY, AND THAT HIS COLLEAGUES WOULD BE IN WASHINGTON APPROXIMATELY TWO WEEKS ANYWAY TO DISCUSS
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MODALITIES OF TITLE I PURCHASES AND SHIPMENTS AT TECHNICAL LEVEL. HE WOULD REMAIN AS LONG AS NEEDED FOR IN-DEPTH DISCUSSIONS. DRAKE STRESSED THAT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT THAT AMBASSADOR HARROP BE NOTIFIED AND TRANSMIT USG DECISION TO GOG IN CONAKRY BEFORE HE (DRAKE) RETURNED TO HIS COUNTRY.

15. FOLLOW-ON MEETING WITH AF/W DIRECTOR AND OTHERS WAS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO GUINEAN ECONOMIC SITUATION AND FOOD REQUIREMENTS. FOLLOWING POINTS EMERGED. A) GUINEAN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS IS NOW STRONGER THAN AT ANY TIME FOR PAST FIVE YEARS. THANKS TO INCREASED EXPORTS OF BAUXITE, ALUMINA AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS, TRADE DEFICIT HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED, SERVICES DEFICIT ALSO DECREASED, CAPITAL ACCOUNT APPARENTLY IN SURPLUS OWING TO LONG TERM CONCESSIONAL LOANS PRINCIPALLY FROM ARAB OIL PRODUCERS. DRAKE WOULD NOT PROVIDE PRECISE FIGURES REGARDING BALANCE OF PAYMENTS OR FOREIGN EXCHANGE RESERVES AND DECLINED EVEN TO ESTIMATE NUMBER OF MONTHS OF IMPORTS COVERED BY RESERVES. B) INCREASE IN ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, OF WHICH IMPROVEMENT IN B/P IS A SIGN, HAS RESULTED IN INCREASE IN URBAN POPULATION WHICH CANNOT FEED ITSELF. DRAKE ESTIMATED URBAN POPULATION AT 550,000 OF WHICH 530,000 LIVE IN CONAKRY AND 20,000 ARE AT FRIA AND BOKE. C) ESTIMATES OF FOOD DEFICIT CENTER ON AVERAGE ANNUAL SHORTFALL OF 60,000 TONS OF RICE. THIS YEAR'S DEFICIT ESTIMATED AT ABOUT 40,000 TONS. ACCORDING TO DRAKE, ALIMAG PURCHASES AND DISTRIBUTES ABOUT 4,500 TONS OF RICE PER MONTH OF WHICH 3,500 TONS MUST BE IMPORTED. STOCKS NOW ON HAND OF ABOUT 9,000 TONS CAN COVER REQUIREMENTS FOR MAY AND JUNE. GUINEA REQUIRES RICE FOR REMAINING SIX MONTHS OF CY 76, AND EXPECTS TO IMPORT ROUGHLY 21 THOUSAND TONS. D) IN THE PAST GUINEA HAS RECEIVED RICE FROM CHINA. CHINA WILL NOT PROVIDE RICE THIS YEAR. DRAKE DID NOT EXPLAIN WHY. E) GUINEA HAS NOT APPLIED TO THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC COMMUNITY FOR FOOD AID. WHEN ASKED WHY NOT, DRAKE SAID "RELATIONS WITH THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY HAVE ONLY JUST BEEN REESTABLISHED", BY WHICH HE CLEARLY WAS REFERRING TO RECENT ESTABLISHMENT OF FRENCH AND GERMAN EMBASSIES IN CONAKRY.

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16. FYI: WE ARE REVIEWING DRAKE DELEGATION'S PRESENTATION
AND WILL TRANSMIT VIEWS FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE. END FYI. SISCO

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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